



**Hong Kong
Primary Care
Conference**
The Hong Kong College
of Family Physicians

Hong Kong Primary Care Conference 2021 “Our Finest Hour: Stride Through The Storm”

Plenary IV

International Consortium of Primary Care Big Data Researchers INTRePID: Studying the Pandemic Impact on Primary Care around the World



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Dr. Karen Tu, is a Professor of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto, a Research Scientist at North York General Hospital as well as a family physician in the Toronto Western Hospital Family Health Team. She has extensive experience in the use of administrative data and is one of Canada's pioneers in the use of primary care electronic medical record data for research and evaluation. Stemming from the pandemic Dr. Tu was inspired to start the International Consortium of Primary Care Big Data Researchers-INTRePID.

The pandemic has taken the world by surprise as we find ourselves in unprecedented times. The impact of the pandemic has not only directly affected those infected, but public health and government mandated measures have also contributed to unintended consequences on family medicine. Family medicine visits quickly switched to virtual visits in Canada and in many countries around the world. In Canada cancer screening programs were paused, newborns have avoided well baby visits and thus immunizations have dropped, chronic disease management has been altered and mental health conditions have been exacerbated. In Canada family physicians have been recognized for their flexibility, adaptability and creativity in rising to the occasion to step in to help deal with the pandemic. Family physicians have assisted in long term care home outbreaks, with redeployment to COVID wards, emergency departments and COVID assessment centers. Family physicians have also provided swabbing in long term care homes, and other shared living settings, vaccine roll out and the development of new care delivery strategies. The importance of family medicine research has never been so apparent. The International Consortium of Primary Care Big Data Researchers – INTRePID gathers family physician researchers from nine different countries around the world with the initial mandate of measuring the impact of the pandemic on primary care. I will share stories from the front lines in Canada as well as illustrate research done on family medicine electronic medical record data or billing claims data in Canada and around the world.